

# REACH



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Chemical Stockpile  
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## TOCDF Prepares for Next Agent Destruction Campaign

The Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) is nearing an important milestone—completing one agent disposal campaign and preparing to begin the next agent disposal campaign. To ensure safe processing, only one type of chemical agent is destroyed during a disposal campaign. The procedure of ending one agent campaign and beginning another is called “changeover.”

The Utah Citizens Advisory Commission on Chemical Demilitarization was briefed on the changeover procedure. The CAC briefing was the first step in efforts to keep the public informed about how the facility is preparing for the upcoming agent disposal campaign. Over the next several months, TOCDF officials will hold public availability sessions, permit modification meetings/hearings and briefings for local, state and federal officials. In addition, the public will be provided information materials.

“We encourage citizens to visit or contact the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office for additional information about the agent changeover procedure and to learn how the Army is working to eliminate the threat of chemical weapons from this community,” said Jim Hendricks, TOCDF site project manager.

As changeover gets underway, secondary waste from the current agent campaign will be processed while the facility begins the next campaign. Part of the changeover process involves independent oversight by state regulators, such as the Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste, who will monitor the facility’s operations.

Changeover also requires that various machines and areas used during the current campaign be decontaminated. In addition, permit



Visit or contact the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office for additional information.

regulations require that trial burns for the next agent campaign be conducted to ensure safe and effective processing in TOCDF’s liquid incinerators, Deactivation Furnace System and Metal Parts Furnace.

## CSEPP BEGINS “READY—SET—ACT!” PROGRAM

The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) has begun an aggressive public awareness campaign. Known as “READY—SET—ACT!” the campaign aims to increase the public’s level of readiness and response in the unlikely event of an incident at the nation’s eight chemical stockpile sites.

Residents of Tooele County benefit from CSEPP because the Deseret Chemical Depot lies within the county’s borders. Through CSEPP, the government provides funding for vital emergency preparedness programs that help those living within the county become ready for an emergency.

The campaign slogan can be broken down into three emergency preparedness and response areas. It is meant to help residents learn their role in a community that is prepared.

**READY** messages focus on being *mentally prepared*. They create awareness of CSEPP’s response system, emergency zones and protective action plans such as evacuation and shelter-in-place. Along with physical preparedness, being ready includes mental preparedness - in other words, knowing the difference between the emergency zones, knowing how to evacuate or shelter in place and knowing a citizen’s role and responsibility.

The area around the depot is divided into two main zones, and protective actions are determined by which zone residents are in at the time of a chemical emergency. The zone closest to the depot is the Immediate Response Zone (IRZ). It covers all of Rush Valley, including Stockton and Vernon. In an emergency, officials



*The Tooele County Emergency Operations Center*

may recommend that people living in the IRZ should evacuate or shelter in place, and tune to an Emergency Alert Station (EAS).

The Tooele Valley and Utah County’s Cedar Valley are in the Protective Action Zone (PAZ). In a chemical emergency, residents in the PAZ would be asked to avoid traveling towards the depot, and to tune to an EAS for further updates.

**SET** messages focus on the *physical gear* that is critical to have for preparation and protection in the event of a chemical incident. They include, but are not limited to, a family or business emergency plan, family and personal disaster supply kits and possession of tone-alert and battery-operated radios. Residents of the IRZ are entitled to a free emergency preparedness packet from Tooele County Emergency Management. The packet consists of a tone-alert radio and shelter-in-place kit, which contains a towel, plastic sheeting, duct tape and specific instructions. The radio is designed to pick up National Weather alerts, but emergency managers can also activate the radios with evacuation and shelter-in-place messages from the Emergency Operations

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## TOCDF Engineers Meet Weteye Bomb Challenges

The Weteye bombs stored at Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) presented unique challenges for engineers at Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF). Engineers with the facility's systems contractor, EG&G Defense Materials, Inc., have resolved these challenges, enabling the facility to move forward with safe destruction of the volatile munitions.

The Weteye, so-called because of its liquid payload and the fact that it originally was supposed to have a camera-assisted guidance system, arrived at DCD in 1981 from Rocky Mountain Arsenal outside of Denver, Colo. Weteyes have an aluminum casing, which may react when it comes into contact with the liquid agent contained in the munition. Such a reaction could occur in the metal parts furnace if the liquid agent did not burn away completely before the casing began to melt.

The furnace, which heats the bomb's metal parts and destroys any remaining agent contamination, is normally set at a temperature slightly above the melting point of aluminum but double the temperature needed to destroy the chemical agent. EG&G engineers adjusted the temperature to ensure that the liquid agent burns off before the aluminum begins to melt.

As an additional safety precaution, EG&G engineers devised a way to drill holes completely through the casing and cradle. This measure allows the maximum amount of liquid agent to drain away before the bombs move into the furnace.

TOCDF engineers will continue to monitor Weteye operations closely as they move forward with safe destruction of these munitions.



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## CSEPP BEGINS "READY—SET—ACT!" PROGRAM

Center. The messages would be the same as those broadcast on EAS stations, but more detailed than what would be broadcast through the outdoor speakers.

**ACT** messages cover the *real-time actions* necessary in an emergency. If a real emergency happens, warning sirens will sound. Residents will need to follow instructions broadcast over outdoor public address loudspeakers and tune to an emergency alert broadcast station for more information.



Warning Siren



## **Medical Professional Deborah Kim Leads CAC**



The Utah Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) on Chemical Demilitarization elected Deborah Kim to succeed Dr. Suzanne Winters as chairperson.

Winters stepped down from the CAC in order to return to the private industry.

Kim is a career nursing professional who serves as director of Emergency Management and Hazardous Materials at the University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics, and Health Sciences Center. She also is active in the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP), serving as chairperson of one of CSEPP's medical quality improvement teams.

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